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99TH CONGRESS
2d Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT
99-511

COLLECTION OF STATISTICS ON CERTAIN INDUSTRIES

APRIL 8, 1986.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GARCIA, from the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 2721]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 2721) to amend title 13, United States Code, to require the collection of statistics on domestic apparel and textile industries, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of H.R. 2721 is to amend title 13, United States Code, to require collection of quarterly statistics on domestic apparel and textile industries.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 2721 was introduced by Mr. Garcia, chairman of the Subcommittee on Census and Population, on June 11, 1985.

The subcommittee held a hearing on H.R. 2721 on June 26, 1985 (Serial No. 99-15), and received testimony from representatives of the International Trade Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce, American Apparel Manufacturers Institute, and Man-Made Fiber Producers Association. The International Ladies Garment Workers Union submitted a written statement.

On November 19, 1985, the subcommittee, by voice vote, approved H.R. 2721, without amendment, for full committee consideration. On March 12, 1986, the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, by voice vote and with a quorum present, ordered H.R. 2721 favorably reported.

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SUMMARY

Currently, under title 13, United States Code, participation in surveys that collect data more frequently than annually is voluntary. H.R. 2721 would require apparel and textile manufacturing firms to respond to quarterly production surveys conducted by the Bureau of the Census.

STATEMENT

Apparel and textile industries provide the U.S. economy with a major source of domestic employment (10 percent of manufacturing workforce). Production in these industries tends to be volatile, rising and falling quickly in response to domestic demand and the level of imports. Consequently, high quality data are critical in establishing an accurate description of the effect of imports on domestic apparel and textile industries.

During the past 2 decades the apparel and textile industries have faced increased competition in the U.S. market place from low-wage developing countries. To avoid market disruption, these industries rely on the Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, an interagency committee which determines whether and when to consult with exporting countries regarding import limitations. Requests for consultation must be accompanied by factual statements of domestic market disruption. However, the apparel and textile industries have experienced lack of quality data because of response problems in industry surveys.

Under current law, participation in surveys that collect data more frequently than annually is voluntary. Annual data on the apparel and textile industries have been detailed, but by the time they are processed the acquired information is not the most current picture of the market which is necessary for international agreements on import constraints.

Mandatory quarterly surveys would provide fiber-specific production data more than 12 months sooner than they are available from the present annual surveys. They would also provide the information that can lead to proper administration of the import restraint programs which can lead to economically healthy and stable apparel and textile industries. Without mandatory authority, substantial response follow-up expenses for this survey program would be required, acceptable survey response rates would likely be unachievable, and timely data to describe key changes in these sensitive domestic industries would not be assured.

The Secretary of Commerce, the Cabinet Council on Commerce and Trade, and the General Accounting Office, have recommended that quarterly apparel surveys be implemented to collect fiber-specific production data that are timely and detailed enough to support international consultation. National organizations representing the apparel and textile industries, as well as retailers, import associations and labor unions, support the quarterly mandatory collection of these data. The textile and apparel associations requested that the quarterly textile surveys be made mandatory as well.

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COST

The cost estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is set forth below:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, March 18, 1986.

Hon. WILLIAM D. FORD,
Chairman, Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, House of Representatives, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed H.R. 2721, a bill to amend title 13, United States Code, to require the collection of statistics on domestic apparel and textile industries, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, March 12, 1986. We estimate that enactment of this bill would result in no significant costs to the federal government and in no costs to state or local governments.

H.R. 2721 would require the Bureau of the Census to collect quarterly statistics on apparel and textile manufacturing firms. To implement this bill, the Bureau of the Census would be required to collect more detailed information on a quarterly basis that it currently collects through monthly surveys of the apparel and textile industries. The Bureau plans to meet these additional responsibilities by phasing out the monthly survey and shifting resources to the new quarterly effort. Therefore, we expect that enactment of this bill would not result in significant additional costs.

If you wish further detail on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them.

With best wishes,
Sincerely,

RUDOLPH G. PENNER, *Director.*

OVERSIGHT

Under the rules of the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, the Subcommittee on Census and Population is vested with legislative and oversight jurisdiction over the subject matter of this legislation. As a result of the hearing, the subcommittee concluded that there is ample justification for enacting this legislation.

The subcommittee received no report of oversight findings or recommendations from the Committee on Government Operations pursuant to clause 4(c)(2) of House Rule X.

INFLATIONARY IMPACT STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 2(l)(4) of House Rule XI, the committee has concluded that the enactment of H.R. 2721 will have no inflationary impact on the national economy.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill,

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as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

TITLE 13, UNITED STATES CODE

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Chapter 3.—COLLECTION AND PUBLICATION OF STATISTICS

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SUBCHAPTER III—APPAREL AND TEXTILES

81. Statistics on apparel and textile industries.

[SUBCHAPTER III—QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATISTICS]

SUBCHAPTER IV—QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATISTICS

91. Collection and publication.

[SUBCHAPTER IV—MISCELLANEOUS]

SUBCHAPTER V—MISCELLANEOUS

101. Defective, dependent and delinquent classes; crime.
102. Religion.
103. Designation of reports.

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SUBCHAPTER III—APPAREL AND TEXTILES

§ 81. Statistics on apparel and textile industries

The Secretary shall collect and publish quarterly statistics relating to domestic apparel and textile industries.

SUBCHAPTER [III] *IV*—QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATISTICS

§ 91. Collection and publication

(a) The Secretary shall collect and publish quarterly financial statistics of business operations, organization, practices, management, and relation to other businesses, including data on sales, expenses, profits, assets, liabilities, stockholders' equity, and related accounts generally used by businesses in income statements, balance sheets, and other measures of financial condition.

(b) Except to the extent determined otherwise by the Secretary on the basis of changed circumstances, the nature of statistics collected and published under this section, and the manner of the collection and publication of such statistics, shall conform to the quarterly financial reporting program carried out by the Federal Trade Commission before the effective date of this section under section 6(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act.

(c) For purposes of section 6103(j)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, the conducting of the quarterly financial report program under this section shall be considered as the conducting of a related statistical activity authorized by law.

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SUBCHAPTER [IV] *V*--MISCELLANEOUS

§ 101. Defective, dependent, and delinquent classes; crime

(a) The Secretary may collect decennially statistics relating—

(1) to the defective, dependent, and delinquent classes; and

(2) to crime, including judicial statistics pertaining thereto.

(b) The statistics authorized by subsection (a) of this section shall include information upon the following questions, namely: age, sex, color, nativity, parentage, literacy by race, color, nativity, and parentage, and such other questions relating to such subjects as the Secretary deems proper.

(c) In addition to the decennial collections authorized by subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the Secretary may compile and publish annually statistics relating to crime and to the defective, dependent, and delinquent classes.

§ 102. Religion

The Secretary may collect decennially statistics relating to religious bodies.

§ 103. Designation of reports

All reports covering any of the statistics collected under the provisions of this subchapter shall be designated as "Special Reports" followed by the name of whatever bureau or agency of the Department of Commerce is designated by the Secretary to collect and compile such statistics.

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